

money from corporations and the super wealthy.

H.R. 3463 also eliminates the important Election Assistance Commission, which was created in the wake of the 2000 presidential election to help states update their voting systems. The commission provides voting system testing and certification programs to ensure that every qualified citizen's vote is counted. Since the commission was created, it has greatly improved the accessibility and reliability of voting machines. The commission works to provide states with financial and informational resources to upgrade their voting and registration systems, train their poll workers, and improve access to voting machines for more than 37 million voters with disabilities. The Republican bill to turn back the clock on fair elections is opposed by a wide-range of public interest groups dedicated to protecting voting rights—including the League of Women Voters, Democracy 21, Common Cause, Americans for Campaign Reform, Brennan Center for Justice, Campaign Legal Center, People for the American Way, Public Campaign, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), Public Citizen, and U.S. PIRG. Congress should assist the commission with additional resources; it should not eliminate it.

The Republican leadership combined H.R. 3463 in a rule to pay for two other flawed bills, the misnamed Regulatory Accountability Act and the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act. In contrast to their nice-sounding titles, these bills create unnecessary delays and additional red tape in federal rulemaking. These delays could be detrimental to public health and safety.

It is important to recognize that President Obama has implemented reforms to the rule-making process. In January 2010, the President signed an Executive Order that required agencies to determine if the benefits of proposed rules are justified considering their cost to society. He also directed agencies to consider input from affected public and private stakeholders and experts when developing rules and regulations. President Obama required an interagency review of repetitive rules and regulation between agencies that may prevent innovation in the private sector. In response to concerns from small business owners, President Obama requested departments and agencies to decrease unjustified economic burdens on small businesses through increased flexibility. This increased flexibility can include postponing compliance deadlines for small businesses, establishing different requirements for small firms and large firms, and providing partial or total exemptions for small businesses. I believe that the steps taken by the Obama Administration address many of the problems these bills seek to fix without creating additional layers of unnecessary bureaucracy and legal uncertainty.

In 1980, Congress passed the Regulatory Flexibility Act to require that federal agencies consider the potential economic impact of federal regulations on small businesses. The current law has worked well, but the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act creates excessive requirements in federal rulemaking by subjecting 50 additional federal agencies to conduct small business peer review panels and additional costly analyses. The bill would create major delays in important rules. These delays could adversely impact rules that would

protect families from fraudulent practices in the mortgage industry or safeguard children from toxic toys among other things.

The so-called Regulatory Accountability Act adds more than 60 new requirements in the federal rulemaking process. These new requirements would prevent government agencies from addressing public health, consumer protections, environmental standards, workplace safety and financial malfeasance and many other important actions. The new requirements contained in these bills could prevent federal agencies from fulfilling their core missions under the law. If federal requirements are overly burdensome, Congress already has the oversight responsibility to address the problem. I stand ready to work with all my colleagues to eliminate any outdated unnecessary regulations that are not cost-effective.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HARLEM DOUBLE DUTCH CLASSIC

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Harlem Double Dutch Classic, which competition takes place every year at the world famous Apollo Theater. I also would like to recognize the National Double Dutch League and my good friend Mr. David A. Walker who passed away in 2008, and the rise of director Ms. Lauren Walker, Mr. Walker's daughter.

David A. Walker, the founder of the National Double Dutch League made Double Dutch into the game it is today. Together with Ulysses Williams, whom he met while working for the New York City Police Community Affairs division, were able to make the game into a competitive team sport that quickly gained momentum as a World Class Sport. By 1974 Double Dutch had gained enough popularity to have the first tournament of fifth through eighth graders, in which almost 600 students participated.

Double Dutch has since become a citywide, national and international sport. Community centers and school throughout the national have thousands of students compete to be champions of this wonderful sport. For 18 years, Walker served the American Double Dutch League as president, and later went on to form the International Double Dutch Federation, the National Double Dutch League, which we are honoring today, and the Dynamic Diplomats of Double Dutch team. Walker managed to create an approach to the sport that has spread throughout the world as the default method to compete. Double Dutch has risen and fallen in popularity over the years, but Walker was able to help the game stand the test of time and rise once again in its full glory.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to educate themselves on this important sport that has changed the lives of young girls and boys throughout the nation and the world. We must honor the man that has helped put our children's energies into safe pass times such as this, and David A. Walker was that man. I know that his daughter will carry on his legacy

and keep this incredible sport alive and thriving.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS—RICHARD D. OLIVER

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Specialist Richard D. Oliver served our country in the United States Army from 1980 to 1983. During his distinguished military career, Oliver trained to perform decontamination of field units in the event of a combat nuclear exchange. He served with the 2nd Armored Division, 1st and 2nd Infantry. Later, he was stationed in Korea as a Demilitarized Zone Guard.

Having served with great distinction, Oliver was awarded the Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Drivers Badge.

After leaving the Army, Oliver served as a volunteer firefighter for the City of Sachse, Texas for 10 years. He now serves Sachse as a Police Officer. The recipient of four Life Saving Awards, Oliver most recently put his skill and strength to work when he rescued a woman who was trapped in her burning vehicle.

He is the current Vice President and State Trustee of the Fraternal Order of Police, also representing that organization at the local Chamber of Commerce. With the support of his fellow officers, he is the driving force behind the annual Christmas food and toy drive for needy families. Oliver also assists families who need assistance with home repairs and maintenance through the Sachse Shares project. Last year, Oliver was honored by his hometown as outstanding citizen of the year when he was presented with the Spirit of Sachse Award.

It is my pleasure to name Richard D. Oliver a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,088,441,787,407.62. We've added \$10,287,036,612,113.34 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

**FAIRNESS FOR HIGH-SKILLED
IMMIGRANTS ACT OF 2011**

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 3012, The Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act.

I congratulate my colleague from Utah and my colleague, the esteemed chair of the Committee on the Judiciary, for moving this bill through the committee process and bringing it to the floor. I am pleased to be a cosponsor.

This bill will eliminate per-country limits on employment-based immigration, which limit the total employment-based immigration from any one country to just seven percent of the overall number of visas allowed.

While there may have been a rationale for per-country limits in the past, currently they have created a bottleneck for those seeking to legally emigrate from high population countries. These high population countries also happen to be countries from which a large percentage of high-skilled workers come.

Simply put, H.R. 3012 will reform our employment-based immigration such that our economy will have better access to the best and the brightest in the world.

The value of foreign-born, high-skilled talent simply cannot be overstated.

For example, researchers at Duke University and University of California—Berkeley found that, from 1995 to 2005, more than a quarter of engineering and technology companies started in the U.S. had at least one foreign-born founder and in 2006 these companies employed 450,000 workers and produced \$52 billion in sales.

Facilitating U.S. industry having access to the best and the brightest from around the world is crucial to ensuring that we stay on the leading edge of global innovation.

Given the economic realities we face, these reforms could not come at a better time and this legislation has received support from CompeteAmerica, the Information Technology Industry Council, TechAmerica, and Immigration Voice.

This bill is the right policy at the right time and it is my hope that it moves through the legislative process and ultimately lands on the President's desk expeditiously.

In addition, Congress can and should continue to look for fixes to our current approach to legal immigration that will benefit our economy.

For example, there is a growing consensus that steps should be taken to ensure that we are able to retain foreign-born graduates with advanced degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math, as opposed to losing them to countries with which we compete.

I look forward to working with the Chairman and my colleagues on commonsense reforms that can help the U.S. retain its competitive

edge and remain at the forefront of the global marketplace.

**RECOGNITION OF MAJOR ALISON
HAMILTON**

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Major Alison Hamilton, United States Army, on the occasion of her departure from the Army House Liaison Office to deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

I, and many other members of this chamber, have had the pleasure of working with her as she has served as a part of the U.S. Army Office of Legislative Affairs, and prior to that, when she served as a Congressional Fellow in my office.

In 1999, while still a West Point cadet, Major Hamilton was awarded the Soldier's Medal—the Army's highest peacetime award for bravery—"for heroism above and beyond the call of duty" following the terrorist bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, on August 7, 1998 when she risked her life to rescue others.

Following her graduation from West Point, Major Hamilton was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army. During her 13-year career, she has served as platoon leader for companies of Military Police in Germany and Kosovo and as the Battalion S-1 for the 709th Military Police Battalion. For 19 months, she commanded the 212th Military Police Detachment stationed in Fort Belvoir, VA before deploying to Arifjan, Kuwait to serve as the theatre operations officer in the only strategically deployable Field Army headquarters in the U.S. Army. Upon redeployment, Major Hamilton went on to share her field experience with cadets at the Valley Forge Military College where she served as the Battalion S-3 and Assistant Professor of Military Science.

In 2010, she joined my personal office as a Congressional Fellow tasked with assisting me in my work on the House Armed Services Committee and quickly became an integral and important part of our team, demonstrating the same level of leadership, maturity, dedication, insight and intelligence that have been the hallmarks of her career. Alie took initiative to help me pursue several legislative initiatives and served as a valuable resource to me and my staff. Her warm personality and even temperament mixed with her thorough attention to details and intelligence made her a reliable and trusted member of our team. Even after her yearlong commitment was completed, she remains a regular visitor to my office but we miss her daily presence.

Following her fellowship, Major Hamilton was assigned to the Army House Liaison Office as a Legislative Liaison where she continued her dedicated service to the Congress and to the Army. Throughout her assignment to the House of Representatives, Major Hamilton has been a superb representative of Army values.

It is my great honor to congratulate Major Alison Hamilton on her service to the Army and our Nation and I ask my colleagues to join

me in recognizing the remarkable accomplishments of this soldier, citizen, and friend. We wish her a safe and successful deployment and a speedy return home.

**HONORING OLD MISSION SANTA
BARBARA ON ITS 225TH ANNI-
VERSARY**

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the Old Mission Santa Barbara in Santa Barbara, California. This is a momentous occasion. Founded by Father Fermon Lasuon on the Feast of St. Barbara on Dec. 4, 1786, the Old Mission Santa Barbara has been administered by the Franciscan Order since its founding, making it the oldest continually operating church in California.

The Old Mission is an exceptional example of both neo-classical architectural design with Mexican, Spanish and native Indian influence, and a rare, lasting example of Chumash sculpture and craftsmanship. Throughout the Santa Barbara Mission's 225 year history, it has served as the signature building of the Santa Barbara community.

In past years, the Old Mission has alternatively served as a mission, a boarding school, a bishopric, a theological seminary, a museum, a private residence, a retreat center, and a parish church. After the devastating earthquake of 1925, which destroyed much of the towers of the mission, the community rallied in support of the Old Mission by collecting pennies and holding benefit concerts all to fund the Mission's restoration.

Old Mission Santa Barbara, a National Historic Landmark, and known as the "Queen of the Missions," continues to serve our community by hosting the Old Mission Arts and Crafts shows, I Madonnari Festival, the world famous Old Spanish Days Fiesta, the blessings of the animals, and the Christmas nativity crèche, as well as other historic celebrations and community gatherings.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 225th anniversary of the Old Mission Santa Barbara and the central role it continues to play as a cultural and historic landmark in the city of Santa Barbara.

**COMMEMORATING WORLD STROKE
DAY**

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate World Stroke Day, which was observed on October 29th. Although I was unable to commemorate this day when it occurred, it's never too late to raise awareness about this devastating disease.

On average, a stroke occurs every 40 seconds in America, and it's the fourth leading cause of death in our country. A stroke is essentially a "brain attack" that occurs when